

“Water Conservation: Ideas for Saving Water”

New Jersey is considered to be a “water rich” State, with an average rainfall of 45 inches per year. However, demands on our limited water supply due to population growth and development have increased greatly, making water conservation a prudent step for New Jersey’s citizens year round. During the peak irrigation months of April to October, when we experience hotter, drier summer conditions, it is even more important to conserve water in order to avoid mandatory water use restrictions. Summer outdoor water use increases as people wash cars, fill pools, and water lawns and gardens. Water conservation allows more water to remain in our streams, lakes and rivers for recreational uses and aesthetic enjoyment while also providing habitat for our wildlife.

QUICK TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER

- Install water conserving showerheads and faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen (available at most home improvement stores as well as some supermarkets);
- Turn off faucets when not in use, such as brushing your teeth or washing the dishes;
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full;
- Use a broom to sweep the sidewalk, rather than a hose;
- Water lawns only as needed. In New Jersey, usually one inch of water per week is all that is needed to maintain a healthy lawn. Irrigation timers should be set to water in the early morning (before 10 am) and should be turned off during and after rainfall;
- Water lawns (and outdoor plants) in the early morning hours (before 10 am) for shorter, more frequent periods to allow time for the soil to absorb the water and enable roots to grow deep, while avoiding rot and encouraging drought tolerance;
- Use mulch and native plants to conserve water in the garden;
- Use a rain barrel to capture water from a downspout to use later for watering gardens and plants;
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation to water trees, gardens and flower beds;

For more detailed information, please click on the link below to enter an interactive water conserving website sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Urban Water Conservation Council. Here you will find useful information on how you can conserve water in and outside your home, product information, environmental benefits and cost estimates, along with a water calculator to figure where you can conserve water in your daily routine. Remember, if we all do a little, we can save a lot!

www.h2ouse.org